

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search.

No claims amended, added, or cancelled. Hence, Claims 1-26 are pending in the application.

SUMMARY OF THE REJECTIONS/OBJECTIONS

Claims 1-9, 11-22, and 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,738,770 to Gorman ("*Gorman*").

Claims 10 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Gorman* in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0110227 to O'Hagan ("*O'Hagan*").

THE REJECTIONS BASED ON THE CITED ART

The attached declaration proves that an implementation of Claims 1 – 26 was developed and successfully tested before the provisional filing date of *Gorman*, which is November 4, 2000. Therefore, Claims 1 – 26 were reduced to practice by the inventor before the provisional filing date of *Gorman*. *Gorman* cannot be used as a valid basis for rejecting Claims 1 – 26 under 102(e) or 103(a). Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1 – 26 is respectfully requested.



CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on March 9, 2007

by

Darci Sakamoto